Washington State Patrol
Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas
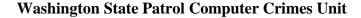
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For Immediate Release
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Washington State Patrol Computer Crimes Unit

Chief Ronal Serpas announced today that, since its inception in 1997, the Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) of the Washington State Patrol is providing computer forensics services to more law enforcement agencies than ever.

"It seems that once an agency uses our services they quickly become a repeat customer. After they see what kind of information our detectives can retrieve from electronic media, officers are now able to see in more detail the value of what evidence can be stored on computers and disks," stated Chief Serpas. This year CCU has completed 125 cases for state, county, city, and federal agencies. Out of these 125 cases 46 were child pornography related. This compares to 37 cases relating to child pornography in 2001.

Sometimes the information from a computer provides only a small portion of the detective's case in others; the computer is the only evidence. With our ability to image computers in the field, we can inconspicuously collect evidence without interrupting the normal business of the company.

Even though the unit's caseload grows substantially each year, detectives are available to provide training to those inside and outside of the WSP. Recently, two detectives in the unit trained other computer forensics detectives at the Northwest Technology and Crime Analysis Seminar. Most of the requests for training deal with the collection and preservation of electronic evidence and writing computer related search warrants.

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